

## [W. H. Davis]

[EARLY SETTLEMENT?]

[W. H. Davis, V. A.?]

Childress, [Erath County?]

District #8 [5-700 632?]

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Reference

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William R. Davis, Senior, come from North Carolina in the spring of the year 1856 to Texas and settled on the North Paluxy River. They were the seventh family to settle on the Paluxy from its head to its mouth, a distance of some fifty miles or more. It took three months to make the trip to Texas in covered wagons drawn by oxen. At this time, [panther?], [bear?], antelope, deer, wild turkey, prairie chicken, raccoon, opossum, skunks, wild cattle, wild horses, wild hogs and squirrels were in abundance in Erath County. The lonesome howl of the coyotes the dangerous hiss of the rattle snake, and the murderous whoop of the wild Indians were often [heard?].

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These seven families lived from two to five miles apart. From twenty to thirty miles away, there were other small settlements in [Erath?] County. [A?] little later, Duvall, a surveyor established the county lines.

For many years, the Indians made raids over Erath County, stealing horses [and?] murdering whites. Often the [Indians?] would not be satisfied with their stolen goods [and?] would murder and scalp the settlers. The raids were always made on the full of the moons perhaps because the Indians [wanted?] to take advantage [C12- 2/11/14- Texas?] 2 of an all-night moon to perform their depredations.

The last Indian raid in Erath County was made by a [band?] of seven Indians — six bucks and one squaw. Some where near the south-east corner of Erath county they were resisted by a few white men, who [gave?] chase. These were joined by other settlers as fast as runners could [warn?] them out. The band of whites was increased almost hourly. The Indians were going not far from the east line of the county and heading northward. The whites kept so close and recruits from the settlers began to arrive from every directions so the Indians were forced to change their course. They wanted to get out of Erath County in the hope that if they did, pursuit would stop. The whites crowded the Indians so closely, that, [near?] the north-east end of the county they took refuge in the bed of Star Hollow or Creek. This Hollow is at, or very near the east line of Erath county on the Morgan Mill and Granbury road. The Indians took refuge under a high bluff, which [gave?] then an [advantage?] over the whites [because?] they could only be attacked from the front, and in open view of the Indians. The whites charged, but were forced to retreat from the shower of arrows. There were three white man seriously wounded. The day was exceedingly hot and a sudden thunder storm came. The down-pour filled the creek to a depth of four or five feet in a very short time. This wet the bow strings and arrows so that the Indians could not shoot with an accuracy. 3 [EARLY SETTLEMENT?]

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The whites had increased their numbers to about a hundred men and charged the Indians. The bucks were killed first. As the white men dashed up, the lone survivor spoke in broken English: "Don't kill me - me squaw." But she had fought too [savagely?] to be [spared?]. The seven Indians were carried to the top of the Bluff and left to their silent sleep. [Newman?] D. Davis, eldest son of William H. Davis was the only one of that family to take [part?] in this fight.